

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the paragraph in the specification after the title:

The present application claims priority under 35 USC § 119 to Finnish Patent Application Number 20040065, filed January 19, 2004, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A modular switching device comprising a plurality of interconnected modules (2, 3), said modules comprising a control device module (2) and a pole cell module (3), said modules (2, 3) of the switching device being interconnected with a shaft adapted to transfer a torque required for operating the switching device from one module (2) to another module (3), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each module (2, 3) comprises a shaft element (6), and ~~in that~~ wherein said shaft transferring the torque is composed of directly interconnected shaft elements (6).

2. (Currently Amended) A modular switching device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein both ends of the shaft element (6) of each module (2, 3) in the switching device is provided with a connecting member (8, 10) for connecting to a shaft element of an adjacent module.
3. (Currently Amended) A modular switching device as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connecting member provided at a first end of the shaft element (6) of each module (2, 3) is a male connecting member (8), and the connecting member provided at a second end is a female connecting member (10).
4. (Currently Amended) A modular switching device as claimed in claim 2 or 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connecting members (8, 10) of the shaft element (6) of at least one module (2) are of a grooved shaft type.
5. (Currently Amended) A modular switching device as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~ ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ claim 1, comprising two modules (2, 5) that have frames of different sizes and are directly interconnected via said shaft elements.
6. (Currently Amended) A modular switching device as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein one of said two directly interconnected modules (2, 5) having frames of different sizes is an additional module (5), such as an auxiliary contact module.
7. (Currently Amended) A modular switching device as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the shaft element of each module (2, 3, 5) of the switching device comprises means for connecting to a shaft element of an additional module (5).
8. (Currently Amended) A modular switching device as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said means for connecting to the shaft element of the

additional module ~~(5)~~ comprise at least one general tooth ~~(16)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A switch device module, **characterized in that** it is adapted for ~~use in~~ a modular switching device as claimed in claim 1.

10. (New) A modular switching device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the connecting members of the shaft element of at least one module are of a grooved shaft type.

11. (New) A modular switching device as claimed in claim 10, comprising two modules that have frames of different sizes and are directly interconnected via said shaft elements.

12. (New) A modular switching device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the shaft element of each module of the switching device comprises means for connecting to a shaft element of an additional module.